

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant invention provides a method for stabilizing an RNA molecule against degradation comprising applying a solution to a separation medium having a non-polar separation surface in the presence of a counterion agent, wherein the solution comprises the RNA molecule and an agent capable of catalyzing the degradation of RNA; eluting the RNA molecule from the separation medium by passing through the separation medium a mobile phase containing a concentration of organic solvent sufficient to elute the RNA molecule from the separation medium, where the elution is conducted under conditions that result in a substantial separation of the RNA molecule from the agent capable of catalyzing the degradation of RNA; and collecting an eluant fraction containing the RNA molecule that is substantially free of the agent capable of catalyzing the degradation of RNA. In a preferred embodiment the method is performed under conditions that are substantially free of multivalent cations.